**Production of oilseeds and pulses in Madhya Pradesh**

†3666. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with a view to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses with Japanese assistance in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh, a proposal of Rs 108.15 crores has been sent by the Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) by when the sanction is likely to be accorded to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A project proposal for maximizing the oilseeds and pulses production in Budelkhand region seeking assistance under Japanese Technical Cooperation Programme was received from State Government of Madhya Pradesh and same was forwarded to Deptt. of Economic Affairs. In response, Department of Economic Affairs indicated that assistance from Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is available only for facility construction and equipment supply under Japanese grant-in-aid assistance and requested the State Government to submit revised proposal in the prescribed format. The revised proposal for Rs. 94.05 crores has been received by this Ministry in May, 2006 and a copy has been sent to the Department of Economic Affairs for posing it to Donar Agency.

**Increase in prices of pulses**

3667. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1182 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 2006 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that inspite of the imports of pulses made during 2004-05 and 2005-06, the prices of pulses continued to rise in the open market during the months of January to April, 2006;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in the prices of various kinds of pulses during the period; and

(c) the steps Government propose to ensure adequate availability of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.